
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REQUIRE THAT MEDICAL CARE
PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PRENATAL SCREENING AND
TESTING FOR DOWN SYNDROME TO ALL PREGNANT WOMEN.

1 WHEREAS, one in every six hundred ninety-one babies in the
2 United States is born with Down syndrome, accounting for about
3 six thousand babies every year; and
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5 WHEREAS, prenatal screening is an important part of
6 prenatal care for pregnant women and their families; and
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8 WHEREAS, in many cases, pregnant women do not receive all
9 applicable information on the available prenatal screening and
10 testing options, including screening and testing for the three
11 types of Down syndrome known as trisomy 21, translocation, and
12 mosaicism; and
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14 WHEREAS, the national abortion rate for fetuses diagnosed
15 with Down syndrome is estimated to be ninety per cent; and
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17 WHEREAS, section 321-331, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
18 authorizes the Department of Health to adopt rules to ensure
19 that all pregnant women are offered appropriate information and
20 services relating to prenatal screening and diagnosis; now,
21 therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2015, that the Department of Health is urged to
26 require that applicable medical care professionals provide all
27 pregnant women with information on prenatal Down syndrome
28 screening and testing, risks associated with that screening and
29 testing, and information on where to obtain support if screening
30 and testing reveal that a fetus is diagnosed with Down syndrome;
31 and
32




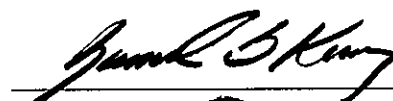



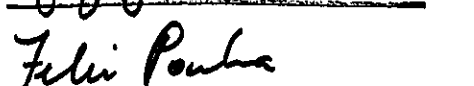


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 2 urged to collect information on the number of fetuses diagnosed
 3 with Down syndrome that are aborted and those that are carried
 4 to term; and

5
 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 7 urged to submit a report to the Legislature, no later than
 8 twenty days before the Regular Session of 2016, on the number of
 9 pregnancies, since 2010 or when data is available, terminated
 10 due to the fetus being diagnosed with Down syndrome and those
 11 that are carried to term; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the
 15 Chairperson of the Hawaii Medical Board, and the President of
 16 the Hawaii Medical Association.
 17
 18
 19

OFFERED BY:

	
<u>Jakeshi Omi</u>	<u>Gerald S. King</u>
	
<u>Richard Lugo</u>	<u>Felix Poulaka</u>
	
<u>Mark J. Hoken</u>	<u>Calvin H. Day</u>
	
<u>GSE</u>	<u>John Welch</u>



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Tom Barr

Ok

Hal Abelson

Jim Hall

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John M. ...

J. ...

K. ...

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